

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SCCT-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 EURE-00 /081 W

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R 241635Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6887

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAUGE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: ETA POL/MIL WING REPORTEDLY WANTS TO NEGOTIATE,
FORM PARTY

REF: MADRID 5667

1. ACCORDING TO "CAMBIO 16", THE DE FACTO TRUCE BETWEEN
ETA DNTHE GOVT--"CAMBIO" REPORTS, ACCURATELY, THAT THERE
HAVE BEEN NO ACTS OF ETA OR ANTI-ETA VIOLENCE, EXCEPT FOR THE
STILL UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE OF ETA LEADER JOSE MARIA
MORENO BERGARECHE (PERTUR), SINCE THE SUAREZ GOVT TOOK
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OFFICE-RESULTS IN LARGE PART FROM THE DECISION OF ETA'S

POLITICAL/MILITARY WING TO MOVE AWAY FROM TERRORISM AND TOWARD OVERT, NON-VIOLENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY. THE "CAMBIO" STORY, WHICH IS IN LINE WITH REFTEL AND RUMORS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY OUR CONSUL IN BILBAO, HAS ETA'S POL/MIL WING SEEKING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVT, ALTHOUGH UNDER WHAT APPEAR TO BE IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS, AND SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF A LEFTIST BASQUE POLITICAL PARTY, IN WHICH IT WOULD PARTICIPATE.

2. THE MAGAZINE'S CORRESPONDENT IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES REPORTS THAT, INTER ALIA, HE WAS TOLD THE FOLLOWING BY THREE ETA LEADERS DURING A CLANDESTINE INTERVIEW LAST WEEK IN SOUTHERN FRANCE:

-- WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT OUR CURRENT STRUCTURE AND METHODS ARE NO ADEQUATE TO THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION AND THAT THEY IMPEDE THE UNIFICATION OF THOSE SECTORS TO WHICH WE ARE IDEOLOGICALLY AKIN. BECAUSE THE STRUGGLE OF THE MASSES NOW REQUIRES THE SEPRATION OF POLITICAL FROM VIOLENT MEANS, WE HAVE DECIDED TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT AND REVOLUTIONARY BASQUE PARTY WHICH WILL BE ABLE EFFECTIVELY TO DIRECT THE STURGGLE OF THE WOKRING CLASS AND THE BASQUE PEOPLE.

-- IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF A TRUCE BETWEEN ETA AND THE GOVT; THERE ISN'T ONE. IT IS THAT WE FIND OURSELVES AT A CROSSROADS WHICH OBLIGES US TO RETHINK MANY THINGS, INCLUDING THE MATTER OF VIOLENT STRUGGLE, WHICH ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CHANGE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE RENOUNCED VIOLENCE. IT IS NECESSARY, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMING "BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY" TO MODIFY THE FORM WHICH OUR STRUGGLE TOOK UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP, BUT WE DO NOT FORGET THAT THE AGGRESSION OF THE STATE WILL CONTINUE, DISGUISED, FOR INSTANCE, AS EXTREME-RIGHT VIOLENCE, AND THAT AN ARMED ORGANIZATION, CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THE CONQUESTS OF THE PEOPLE, WILL CONTINUE TO BE NECESSARY.

-- AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD CREATION OF THE BASIS FOR ETA-GOVT NEGOTIATIONS, WE DEMAND THE IMPORVEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR ALL BASQUE PRISONERS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A TOTAL AMNESTY AND THE RETURN OF ALL EXILES. IN ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVT, OUR POSITION WILL BE BASED ON OUR SEVEN-POINT "PROGRAMA DE ALTERNATIVA."

3. THE POLITICAL/MILITARY WING'S PROGRAM, IN ADDITION TO ADVOCATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, TOTAL AMNESTY, AND IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS, CALLS FOR:

-- DISSOLUTION OF ALL "REPRESSIVE GOVT ORGANS" AND LEGAL

SANCTIONS AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ACTED "REPRESSIVELY
AND CRIMINALLY AGAINST OUR PEOPLE";
-- RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF THE BASQUE PEOPLE TO
DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE
CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT BASQUE STATE;
-- IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVISIONAL,
AUTONOMOUS LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM FOR THE
BASQUE PROVINCES BASED ON A STATUTE OF AUTONOMY WHICH,
INTER ALIA, INSTITUTES "BILINGUALISM" IN THE FOUR
SPANISH BASQUE PROVINCES, WITH PREFERENCE TO THE BASQUE
TONGUE (EUSKERA) AND CULTURE, AND FORMALLY RECOGNIZES
THE NATIONAL TIES WHICH UNITE THE BASQUES OF SPAIN
AND FRANCE, TRANSCENDING EXISTING FRONTIERS; AND
-- INSTALLATION OF A PROVISIONAL GOVT OF THE SPANISH
BASQUE PROVINCES (EUSKADI), COMPOSED OF ALL DEMOCRATIC
FORCES WHICH DESIRE TO TAKE PART, TO REPRESENT THE BASQUE
PEOPLE BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVT IN MADRID. "EUSKADI WILL
RECOGNIZE THE CENTRAL PROVISIONAL GOVT IF AND WHEN IT PROMISES
TO RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE AND LIBERTIES HERIN ENUMERATED."

4. COMMENT. THE ETA POLITICAL/MILITARY WINGS PROGRAM
OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVT AS
A NEGOTIATING POINT OF DEPARTURE; "TOTAL" AMNESTY, TO
INCLUDE TERRORISTS, IS UNTHINKABLE IN MANY CIVILIAN AND
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT QUARTERS AND THE PROGRAM GOES
CONSIDERABLY FARTHER ON THE QUESTION OF BASQUE "AUTONOMY"
THAN EVEN THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE LEFT OPPOSITION WOULD
BE WILLING TO GO. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS NOT AT ALL
INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE GOVT AND ETA ELEMENTS BENT ON
SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY COULD ARRIVE AT A MODUS VIVENDI.
IN THIS REGARD IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
OREJA, WITH FAMILY AND POLITICAL TIES TO THE BASQUE
COUNTRY, IS EXTREMELY HIGHLY THOUGHT OF IN MOST BASQUE
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QUARTERS.
STABLER

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